



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
525 NE Oregon Street
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-2737

July 27, 2004

Mr. Steve Williams, Deputy Administrator
Inland Fisheries
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Avenue, NE
Salem, Oregon 97303

Dear Mr. Williams:

Thank you for providing the 2003 annual report describing implementation of the Siltcoos and Tahkenitch Lakes Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP) (cover letter dated June 25, 2004). The report also included Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) plans for the fishery in the fall of this year, and a request for National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) concurrence with the planned fishery.

NOAA Fisheries has reviewed the annual report and plans for the upcoming season. We are pleased to see that the 2003 fishery was a success, that the escapement of wild coho salmon to the Siltcoos Basin was the highest on record, and that Tahkenitch Basin coho escapement was at near record levels. For 2004, another strong return of coho salmon is forecast for both lakes. Since criteria that justify a fishery (as specified in the completed FMEP) are anticipated to be met, we concur with ODFW's plans for implementing and monitoring this year's fishery.

The ODFW should be applauded for the conservation and sustainable fisheries principles used to manage these fisheries. We believe this FMEP represents sound fisheries management that will be compatible with state and Federal recovery planning efforts for the Oregon Coast Coho Salmon ESU.

Please contact myself, at (503) 230-5427, or Lance Kruzic, of my staff, at (541) 957-3381, if you should have any questions or if we can be of any further service.

Sincerely,

Rob Jones, Chief
Hatcheries and Inland Fisheries Branch

cc: Bob Buckman

